

So we salute you, C. Leo Hitchcock. We wish you many more years of productive taxonomic output, and hope the years ahead also give you ample time for gardening, for responding to the seasonal call of the game birds, and for the perpetual rejuvenation that you may deservedly derive from continued contact with your many, many friends—students, fellow botanists, neighbors, and all others who have drawn from your well of friendship. — A. R. K.

IRIS PSEUDACORUS IN WESTERN NORTH AMERICA

PETER H. RAVEN and JOHN H. THOMAS

Iris pseudacorus L. has been well established in swamps and other wet habitats in eastern North America for nearly a century (Cody, 1961). In western North America this showy, yellow-flowered *Iris* is of more recent introduction, and as in the east seems destined to spread even farther.

Preece (1964) has reported it from several localities in western Montana and it has since become increasingly more common in glacial pot-holes, along ditches, and marshy areas in the Mission Valley in Lake Co. (*Thomas 11020*, DS, US; *Woodland 319*, DS). In British Columbia it is known from Lulu I., near Vancouver (*Beamish & Vrugtman 60540*, OSC). In Oregon it has been found in Columbia Co. (*Wolrod s. n.*, OSC) and in Benton Co. (*Merkle & Merkle s. n.*, OSC).

Hitchcock, et al. (1969), in summary, recorded this species in this Pacific Northwest as "well established in our area in many lakes and ponds and along rocky stream banks."

In California the first record was probably that of Mason (1957), who reported *I. pseudacorus* from Merced Co. Subsequently Rubtsoff (1959) recorded it from Forestville, Sonoma Co. (*Rubtsoff 1836*, CAS, RSA; *1258*, CAS; *1813*, CAS; *1549*, CAS; *1946*, CAS). Other California localities are: Searsville, San Mateo Co. (Rubtsoff, 1959; Thomas, 1961) (*Thomas 7165*, CAS, DS; *9221*, DS); Mettlers Station, Kern Co. (Munz, 1969; Twisselmann, 1963; 1967) (*Twisselmann 8028*, CAS); near Yountville, Napa Co. (*Thomas 15027*, DS); Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz Co. (Rubtsoff, 1959; Thomas, 1961) (*Hesse 2764*, DS) near Montague, Siskiyou Co. (Rubtsoff, 1959) (*Howell 28360*, CAS); and Lyons Springs, Ventura Co. (Rubtsoff, 1959) (*Pollard s. n.*, CAS).

Mason (1959) remarked that *I. pseudacorus* "is apparently moving down the watercourses." This prediction has been fulfilled. T. C. Fuller, of the California Department of Agriculture, has told us that there are dense colonies of this species all along the Merced River in Merced Co. Along Dana Slough west of Snelling, Fuller noted that this *Iris* was the

most common species of marsh plants, growing to the complete exclusion of *Typha* and other characteristic California marsh plants.

In the Delta Region, *I. pseudacorus* still grows as relatively small isolated clumps and local populations. During April 27–28, 1969, one of us (PHR) observed it at the following points near and just east of the Franks Tract in the delta of the San Joaquin River, Contra Costa Co.: Sand Mound Slough, about 1.3 miles southwest of Franks Tract; Rock Slough, about 1.2 miles east of junction with Sand Mound Slough; southwest corner of Quimby I.; and two clumps about 0.4 miles apart at the southeast end of Mandeville I. It is probably much more widely distributed in the Delta Region than these sight observations would indicate.

It seems worthwhile to record these occurrences as there is every indication that this *Iris* will spread and displace many native plants. It is, of course, regrettable to see the populations of native species declining in the face of this new alien, which apparently spread from moist gardens, but one can at least be grateful that they are losing ground to such an attractive plant.

Kenton L. Chambers, Reid V. Moran, and Robert R. Thorne have kindly supplied information about specimens of *I. pseudacorus*.

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NOTES AND NEWS

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Numbers 1, 2, and 3 of Volume 21, will appear very shortly and publication will then be on schedule.